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ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

FOREST SUPERVISOR

MENDOCINO NATIONAL FOREST

1963

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
CALIFORNIA REGION

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MENDOCINO NATIONAL FOREST

FOREST SUPERVISOR	Richard R. Millar	Willows, California

STAFF OFFICERS	FUNCTIONS
Samuel D. Hall	Timber Management - Information and Education - State and Private Forestry
Joseph B. Ely, Jr.	Range - Wildlife - Fire Control
William Anderson	Lands - Recreation - Special Uses - Watershed Management
George E. Blodgett	Engineering
John J. Hudacek	Business Management

RANGERS	DISTRICTS	HEADQUARTERS
Glenn S. Smith	Corning	Corning, California
David G. Mohla	Willows	Willows, California
John W. Torvinen	Stonyford	Stonyford, California
David Hudson	Upper Lake	Upper Lake, California
Arthur J. Weddle	Ukiah	Ukiah, California
Richard B. Fores	Covelo	Covelo, California

MENDOCINO NATIONAL FOREST

ACCOMPLISHMENTS - 1963

Activities on the Mendocino National Forest during the year 1963 reflected the interests and pressures of the ever expanding population in California.

Water use and purity is becoming more and more of a critical problem. This year much time was spent in public meetings called to determine how to put currently wasted water flows to constructive use and how to prevent pollution and contamination of our water supplies. More critical reviews of land management practices are being made. Logging, road construction, and type conversion practices are a few of the many under review to prevent erosion of the soil and siltation and turbidity of the streams and lakes.

Recreation use has continued to increase. Timber use is stabilizing after several years of selling the allowable annual cut. Timber harvesting of steep ground by cable logging methods is now a requirement. We are encouraging more interest in this.

The program of work was again this year accelerated by special funds (Accelerated Public Works) in Mendocino and Lake Counties. In addition to the $100,000 allotted in 1962, $340,000 were allotted in 1963. This has enabled a speed up in our overall development program which has fallen behind the Ten Year Program authorized but not completely financed by Congress.

Because of increased use and more intensive management of the Forest it has become necessary to divide the workload on the two westside Ranger Districts and establish a new District with the Ranger's headquarters at Ukiah. The Ukiah District will be established effective January 6, 1964.

As this report goes to print, a change in Forest Supervisors has been announced. After nine and a half years as Forest Supervisor, Robert Dasmann is being transferred to the Regional Office in San Francisco as Branch Chief in charge of Timber Sales Administration and Programming. Richard Millar, Fire Control Officer on the Los Padres National Forest, is being promoted to the Forest Supervisor position. Mr. Millar brings with him wide experience and background, having served on several of the National Forests in Northern California. The effective date is January 6, 1964.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

77.8 million board feet of timber were cut from the Mendocino National Forest during Fiscal Year 1963. 151 million board feet were made available through new sales and the fiscal year ended June 30 with 160.7 million board feet under contract and available for harvest the following fiscal year.

As of January 1, 1963, the annual allowable cut was raised to 91.0 million board feet for the entire Forest. This allowable harvest is made up of the calculated allowable cuts for the five working circles on the Forest.

The Forest is constantly reviewing and revising the data that go into the determination of the allowable cut so that harvesting can be regulated to take advantage of increases in available volume or decreases to prevent over cutting.

The Thomes Creek Working Circle management plan was revised during 1963 and upon approval in 1964 will provide a basis for a new allowable cut volume in that working circle. In addition, 96 permanent sample plots were established in the forested areas to more accurately determine growth volumes in the future.

In addition to sawtimber volumes, 3724 Christmas trees were sold. These trees were harvested from younger timber stands and removed to promote better growing conditions for future sawtimber crop trees.

439 acres were planted with 263,000 seedlings from the Forest nurseries at Mt. Shasta and Placerville. These reforested areas were either non-stocked brush areas or areas that were understocked with commercial trees and had no seed source to provide future stocking.

To improve growth conditions, young crop trees were thinned or released on 3,700 acres by removing competing inferior species or thinning dense stands of commercial species.

To protect high value plantations of sugar pine, 40 acres were treated to eliminate gooseberry and currant plants which serve as alternate host for the white pine blister rust.

Fiscal Year 1963

Allowable Cut*	(as of January 1, 1963)	91.0
Actual Sales*		151.1
Actual Cut*		77.8
Uncut Volume Under Contract*		160.7
Timber Sale Receipts**		565.0
Average Appraised Price/thousand bd. ft.		5.69
Average Sold Price/thousand bd. ft.		6.53

*Volume in million board feet
**Thousands of dollars

LANDS

Land exchange work moved along modestly but appreciably. Forest personnel cruised 2,263 acres of National Forest land and 240 acres were cruised under contract. Thus current data were acquired on 2,500 acres of National Forest land. Contract cruisers also cruised 2,322 acres of private land. (721 acres were on the Shasta-Trinity National Forests but were offered lands in an inter-forest exchange proposal.)

Appraisal reports were completed on three proposals involving 1,000 acres of private land and 400 acres of National Forest lands.

Three proposals for land exchange involving large acreages were received late in the year. These appear to offer much advantage for both public and private management. An effort will be made to program initial work in Fiscal Year 1965.

Seventeen and one-fourth miles of cadastral survey were contracted with establishment and monumentation of 55 corners needed for land ownership boundaries. The data secured will help clear up several timber trespass problems.

Forest personnel searched for 60 corners and found 34 with acceptable evidence for monumentation. This work was done in conjunction with handling timber sales, rights-of-way, and other resource activities.

Twenty-three right-of-way cases were handled during the year with twelve cases completed or in final stages. One eminent domain case was completed and five others are in various stages of progress. Six right-of-way appraisals were contracted for condemnation or better negotiation data.

One share-cost agreement is under study wherein private and public interests would share costs and exchange rights-of-way. This involves approximately ten miles of permanent road.

Two locked gates were removed from roads on National Forest land.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Eleven soil restoration projects were completed with the $18,600 allotted the Forest in Fiscal Year 1963. Control of gully erosion caused by early day (1920-40) logging, and road and trail construction was the chief type of erosion problem worked on. 6,800 lineal feet of gullies were placed under control; 2-1/2 miles of old abandoned roads were outsloped and "put to bed"; 71 small gully structures were constructed; 36,500 square feet of banks were sloped; and 18,000 square feet of sloped banks were seeded to grasses.

Burn rehabilitation work on the Trough Springs Ridge area included 18,000 lineal feet of contour trenches, 1,400 lineal feet of gullies controlled, 20,000 square feet of gully banks sloped, and 6,000 lineal feet of diversion terraces built by bulldozers. All contour trenches and diversion terraces were seeded to grass.

Much effective work was done in stabilizing several critical slides on the Corbin Creek and Eel River roads eroding into the drainages.

Storm damage caused by several severe rainstorms required considerable road repair and $265,000 were utilized in restoring roads to usable condition.

Cooperative work was initiated with three newly formed groups concerned with water and watershed management. These groups are the Clear Lake Water Quality Study Group, the North Coastal Region Water Pollution Control Board, and the interagency group formed to study the Russian River and Eel River turbidity problem.

IMPACT SURVEYS

Impact surveys were completed on the effect of proposed English Ridge and Etsel-Franciscan water projects. These preliminary surveys show that more liaison, detailed surveys, and analyses are urgently needed to keep abreast of the fast moving implementation of the California Water Plan. Significant effects upon National Forest transportation routes, resource management, fire protection and watershed protection are expected.

RECREATION

Public use rose to over 500,000 visitor days for the first time on this Forest in 1963. This is a nine percent increase over Calendar Year 1962.

Cleanup, sanitation, and maintenance work was done to provide clean, safe camping sites and facilities for the public. Rangers and recreation aids received many compliments on the condition of the camps.

Sunset Campground at Lake Pillsbury operated on a pay basis in the summer of 1963 and $2,114 were collected. The fee is $1 per day per camp site.

Access roads, traffic control and site protection devices, water systems, tables, stoves, and toilets were among the facilities added at Wells Cabin, Telephone Camp, Little Doe, Red Bridge, Middle Fork, Spillway, and Saddle Campgrounds.

Site plans were completed for eight separate campground sites. Area plans were completed for 9,730 acres in the Plaskett Lakes, Hammerhorn Lake, and Letts Lake areas. In addition, preliminary work was started for area plans in four other areas (Lake Pillsbury, George's Valley, Sugarfoot, and Deer Valley). A landscape architect has been hired to prepare the needed site plans for recreational and administrative sites.

SPECIAL USES

Thirty four new special use permits were issued; 14 for summer homes, 9 for road construction and/or use, 4 joint occupancy radio-electronics uses, and 2 for Wildlife Conservation Board projects. The remaining five were for borrow pits, organization camps, and miscellaneous. There were also approximately 20 transfers, chiefly summer home permits.

A periodic five year study of special use fees was completed and new rates for Forest uses approved. These will go into effect at once, although certain term permits will not be affected for a year or two. In general, the study resulted in modestly higher rates, e.g., summer home fees now range from $40 to $60.

RANGE AND WILDLIFE

1,491 cattle grazed this year on National Forest land, with an additional 863 head on intermingled private lands. Grazing time was four and one-half months.

A start was made on new lakes at Lower Letts Valley in Colusa County and Hammerhorn Creek in Mendocino County. This has been done in cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Conservation Board, Mendocino and Colusa County Boards of Supervisors, Soil Conservation Districts, and others.

2,025 bucks were killed in the fall of 1962 from a total herd estimated at 53,000.

BRUSHLAND MANAGEMENT

More than ten thousand acres of brush have been control burned by the Forest in the last ten years. Twenty-five hundred acres (854 in Fiscal Year 1963) of this have been converted to a permanent stand of perennial grass by seeding selected species and spraying with herbicide to eradicate the brush sprouts which follow burning. This work is being done on all Ranger Districts in the Forest.

Work is done on the deeper soils where grass will grow and on ridges where fire control is needed. Rocky areas are avoided, as well as draws and canyon bottoms, where the brush is left for soil protection and wildlife cover.

One rancher is now helping the Forest on 500 acres of this work by crushing the brush for burning and sowing the grass seed.

Herbicide sprays, used to kill the sprouts and seedlings of brush, are now being applied by helicopter instead of ground rig. This has cut the cost of spraying from $7.37 to $4.64 per acre.

The photo on the left below shows the dense stand of chaparral in Grindstone Canyon in 1953. The photo on the right shows the same area ten years later. The fire hazard index has been reduced from extreme to moderate. Sixty cattle now graze this area, where none grazed before. Deer browse has been greatly increased and hunter access improved.

ENGINEERING IMPROVEMENTS

A twenty foot steel lookout was constructed on Eagle Peak on the Corning District, replacing an old wooden structure built during the CCC days. The old Mt. San Hedrin lookout tower was abandoned and the site was used for a commercial television multiplex relay station under special use permit. A new lookout cab was placed on top of the new structure.

The new Covelo Ranger Station was started by awarding contracts for five dwellings, a warehouse and equipment building, a gas and oil house, and a nine room office. This is an Accelerated Public Works project and completion is expected by mid-summer, 1964.

Other Accelerated Public Works contracts were prepared for advertising for bids on final work at the Upper Lake Ranger Station. Contracts were also prepared for streets, water and sewer systems, a ten man barracks, and one dwelling at the Bear Creek Work Center on the Upper Lake District.

Approximately 30 miles of access road were constructed by timber purchasers. All were surveyed and designed by Forest Service employees and inspected and built to Forest Service specifications.

One 6.0 mile section of the Hull Mountain road was reconstructed and approximately 16 miles of the Forest road system received major storm damage repair (Columbus Day storm, 1962). Major restoration work, started in 1962, was continued on the Corbin Creek and Eel River roads.

44.2 miles of roads were surveyed and 79 miles designed. Subsurface tests were made at four major bridge sites prior to early design of the structures. Site surveys were completed for five new work centers.

Surveys were made and two small dams, a bridge and outlet structure were designed by Forest forces for a small reservoir at Hammerhorn Lake. Construction is planned for early 1964.

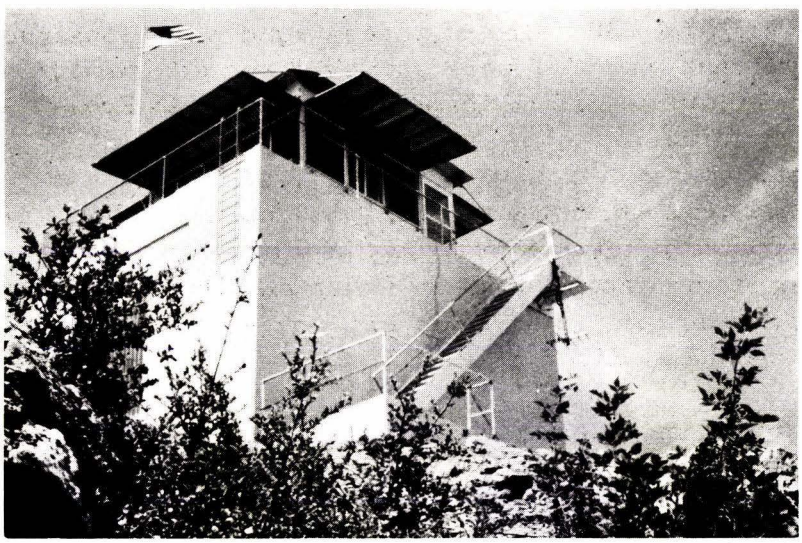
Approximately 350 miles of primary roads and 450 miles of trails were maintained.

FIRE CONTROL

Following four seasons of fire danger severity which was possibly higher than ever before experienced, and a winter without any snowpack, we had this year a very wet spring and a summer of very low fire danger. The fire season closed on October 11 after a good rain, and rains have been intermittent since then.

The Mendocino National Forest had 13 lightning fires, which is about half the average year. There were 12 man caused fires, which was the lowest of any Forest in the Region and below the Forest par of 19. Only 48 acres burned in wildfire. This is the lowest in the history of the Forest.

Out of the 25 fires, airtankers were used on 8, helicopters on 11, and smokejumpers on 2. Loggers and the California Division of Forestry helped us on several fires.



INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Signs have now been erected on multiple use tour routes on five Ranger Districts. Brochures describing these routes have been printed and issued to the public for four of these. In addition, work is in progress to complete the signing on the sixth Ranger District and the brochure on the last two Ranger Districts.

The Forest also continued its active program of keeping the public informed. Slide lectures were presented to some 40 service clubs and other groups. Seven special tours of the Forest were conducted for groups of people to demonstrate the multiple use activities. Other activities in the radio, television, and newspaper field were continued.

PERSONNEL AND SAFETY

Permanent yearlong personnel increased from 134 last year to a Forest total of 142 as of January 1, 1964. Fifty-five employees are stationed at the Supervisor's Office in Willows. The others are on the Ranger Districts. During peak summer workload, employment hit a high of 300.

Mendocino National Forest personnel worked approximately 500,000 man hours in 1963. There were 41 accidents requiring medical attention and 5 vehicular accidents.

As of November 30 the frequency of personal injury accidents was 57 (goal is 30), and of automotive accidents, 3 (goal is 5).

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

Fiscal Year 1963 receipts were $578,055.68. Twenty five percent of these receipts, $144,513.92, was returned to the Counties with acreage within the Forest for roads and schools. In addition, $198,121.64 was collected from timber sales for establishment, improvement, and protection of young growth timber. Twenty-three miles of timber access roads valued at $493,486.00 were constructed by timber purchasers. Total income including timber access road construction costs was $1,269,662.68.

Operating expenditures for Fiscal Year 1963 were $1,525,752.50 and investment expenditures were $715,488.38 for a total of $2,241,240.88.

Fiscal Year 1963 Receipts

Timber (stumpage only)	$565,030.76
Grazing	5,028.87
Land Use	1,529.75
Power	81.00
Recreation	5,885.30
Mineral	500.00
Total	$578,055.68

Twenty-Five Percent Returned to the Counties

Lake	$ 40,906.18
Glenn	31,150.94
Mendocino	28,245.12
Tehama	21,024.36
Trinity	12,185.75
Colusa	11,001.57
Total	$144,513.92

MENDOCINO FOREST FACTS

County	Gross Area in National Forest Including Private Land	Net Area of National Forest Land
Colusa	71,119	66,036
Glenn	221,408	186,981
Lake	304,763	245,536
Mendocino	212,623	169,539
Tehama	193,840	126,197
Trinity	78,889	73,144
Total	1,082,642	867,433

Wilderness Area	70,384 acres
Commercial Forest Land	369,200 acres
Volume Commercial Timber	7,193,000,000 bd. ft.
Annual Allowable Cut	91,000,000 bd. ft.
47 Developed Campgrounds	341 family camp units
6 Picnic Areas	30 family picnic units
Organization Sites	Three
Roads in Forest System Maintained by Forest Service	704.4 miles
Trails in Forest System Maintained by Forest Service	973.8 miles
Buildings of All Types	146
Radio Units of All Types on Forest	162
Fishing Streams	646 miles
Reservoir Area	2,217 acres
Usable National Forest Land Open to Grazing	155,715 acres

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